

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 18

JOINT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the historic commitment of the United States to the recovery of and full accounting for Americans who are prisoners of war or in a missing status.

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Whereas the surrender during World War II on the Bataan Peninsula, in the Philippines, in April 1942 led to the capture of more than 75,000 American and Filipino military prisoners of war;

Whereas American, Filipino, and Allied prisoners of war endured the 65-mile Bataan Death March through the jungles of the Philippines and were subjected to brutal abuse from which many hundreds of Americans and many thousands of Filipinos died;

Whereas thousands more American and Filipino civilians were interned across the region;

Whereas General Douglas MacArthur, the Allied commander for the Southwest Pacific area, including the Philippine Islands, committed forces under his command to make every effort, as quickly as possible, to liberate prisoner of war camps and internment camps as Allied forces began retaking territory;

Whereas in the fulfillment of that commitment, United States Army units, together with various Filipino guerilla groups, successfully conducted several operations that liberated thousands of innocent civilians, prisoners of war, and Filipino citizens;

Whereas in February 1945, elements of the 11th Airborne Division, particularly the 511th Parachute Infantry Regiment of that division, and the 672nd Amphibious Tractor Battalion conducted a particularly brave and daring mission behind enemy lines to rescue over 2,000 people at Los Banos internment camp; and

Whereas the United States has an historic commitment to the recovery of and full accounting for Americans who are prisoners of war or in a missing status: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
- 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 That Congress—

1 (1) recognizes the rescue missions carried out
2 by units of the United States Army, including the
3 11th Airborne Division, 60 years ago in the Phil-
4 ippines during World War II as sterling examples of
5 that commitment; and

6 (2) recognizes the bravery and courage of the
7 soldiers and the Filipino guerillas who participated
8 in those rescue missions.

Passed the House of Representatives February 16,
2005.

Attest:

Clerk.